

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**  
**TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, CHAIRMAN**



**MEDIA ADVISORY**

For Immediate Release  
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***Improving our Nation's Security:  
Management Challenges at DHS***

**What:** Oversight Hearing "Establishing Sound Business Practices at the  
Department of Homeland Security"  
-and-  
Markup of H.R. 2886 *The Homeland Security  
Financial Accountability Act*

**When:** Wednesday, September 10, 2003, 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** 2203 Rayburn House Office Building

The Subcommittee on Government Efficiency and Financial Management will hold an oversight hearing on management practices at The Department of Homeland Security. The creation of DHS, in response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001, is the largest reorganization of the Federal government since the Department of Defense was established more than fifty years ago. It presents, arguably, the greatest management challenge in our Nation's history, bringing together 22 diverse entities under one umbrella, creating an entirely new organizational culture.

The establishment of DHS does not add new responsibilities or increase the size of government; rather it reorganizes and reprioritizes functions, sharpening focus and

increasing effectiveness. In that light, improving our nation's security is essentially a test of our management and leadership.

DHS inherits agencies in varying financial condition with 19 different financial management systems and 15 compensation systems. Given the magnitude and importance of the Department's mission, sound business practices are critical to success and must be established at the outset. The goal of this realignment is to spend less on overhead and more on protecting America.

## **H.R. 2886: The Department of Homeland Security Financial Accountability Act**

On July 24, 2003, Chairman Platts, along with Chairman Tom Davis (VA-11), Rep. Ed Towns (NY-10), Rep. Henry Waxman (CA-30) and Rep. Marsha Blackburn (TN-7) introduced H.R. 2886, *The Department of Homeland Security Financial Accountability Act*, which would apply the provisions of the Chief Financial Officers Act to the DHS.

Further, to ensure long-term financial stability from the outset, the H.R. 2886 would require an opinion-level audit of the Department's internal controls to uncover inherent weaknesses and address issues as business practices are being established – before they become ingrained. A markup of H.R. 2886 will immediately follow the hearing.

As part of this Subcommittee's continuing oversight of Federal agency financial management, this hearing will examine the status of integrating component agencies into a single, effective department through the efficient consolidation of overlapping functions. Management consolidation and reform efforts at DHS deserve appropriate attention and oversight from Congress. This hearing will ensure that sound business practices are implemented from the outset, enabling the Federal government to take advantage of the efficiencies that should come with this realignment and use resources effectively to protect America.

## **WITNESSES**

**The Honorable Linda Springer**, Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget;

**Mr. McCoy Williams**, Director, Financial Management and Assurance Team, General Accounting Office;

**The Honorable Bruce Carnes**, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security;

**Mr. Richard Berman**, Assistant Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Inspector General

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